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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,548	10/01/2003	Goro Nakamura	03327.2310	5745

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EXAMINER

VORTMAN, ANATOLY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,548

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, GORO

Examiner

Anatoly Vortman

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/1/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 9-13B should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 3, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US/5,841,338 to Yasukuni.

Regarding claim 1, Yasukuni disclosed (Fig. 4-9) a fusible link unit comprising:

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at least one fuse circuit structure (Fig. 9) containing a plurality of terminal portions (31) linked through fusible members (20) to a linking plate (33); a housing (21) into which said fuse circuit structure is assembled; and at least one terminal support (15) for supporting a corresponding one of said terminal portions (31) in a state that a front surface of the corresponding terminal portion is exposed from said housing (21) (Fig. 4), wherein said terminal support (15) includes at least one pawl part (19) for preventing a displacement of said corresponding terminal portion in a direction substantially normal to a surface of said corresponding terminal portion (Fig. 6).

Regarding claim 3, Yasukuni disclosed (Fig. 6) that said terminal support (15) includes a pair of pawl parts (19) and a pair of grooves formed along said pawl parts, and side edges of the corresponding terminal portion (16) are entered into said pair of grooves.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4 and 5, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasukuni in view of US/6,509,824 to Inaba et al., (Inaba).

Regarding claim 4, Yasukuni disclosed all, but the nut-screw terminal connection.

Inaba disclosed (Fig. 17) a fusible link unit (91) having fusible link (85) comprising

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electrical terminal (not numbered) disposed in a terminal support (84) and connected to a mating terminal (82) via a nut member (88) and a screw (86).

Since inventions of Yasukuni and of Inaba are from the same field of endeavor (fusible link units), the purpose of the nut-screw terminal connection taught by Inaba would be recognized in the invention of Yasukuni.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the fuse art at the time the invention was made to provide terminals in the fuse link unit of Yasukuni with the nut-screw connections as taught by Inaba in order to adapt said fuse link unit of Yasukuni for the high current applications (it is notoriously known in the electrical fields of endeavor, that nut-screw terminal connections are more reliable and have less I²R losses than regular frictional terminal connections as taught by Yasukuni).

Regarding claim 5, Inaba teaches (Fig. 17) a nut receiving recess in the terminal support (84) (for accepting the nut (88)).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2 and 6-8, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: regarding claims 2 and 6-8, the parent claim 2 recites: "tilting parts";

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the aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claim 2, are believed to render said claim 2 and claims 6-8 dependent thereon, patentable over the art of record.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure:

US/6759938, 5886611, 5977859, 6007350, 6558198, and 6624356 disclosed fusible link units with multiple fusible links.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anatoly Vortman whose telephone number is 571-272-2047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, between 10:00 am and 6:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Lynn Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AV

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Vortman', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anatoly Vortman
Primary Examiner
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